

**Northeast Oregon Alliance Board
Rural Action Plan Survey**

Total Surveys distributed: approximately 230

Total Surveys returned: 31

Percentage returned: 13.4%

Are you responding as an individual? 19 -Y or as a representative of a group? 14 -Y

(2 marked both categories)

If as an individual, with what community do you feel connected?

City of Wallowa

City of Union 4

Umatilla Tribes

Umatilla County

Imnaha

Business

Wallowa Valley/County 3

Pendleton

Enterprise/Joseph

La Grande

City of Echo

City of Enterprise

Milton-Freewater

If as a group, name the group

Northeast Oregon AHEC Board of Directors

City of Athena

Region 13 Workforce Quality Council

Crow's Shadow Institute

La Grande/Union Co. Visitors & Convention Bureau

Re:Union/City of Union 2

Union County

Milton-Freewater Dev. Corp.

Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation

Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce

Elgin 2010

City of Hermiston Planning Dept.

What type of projects should be high priority for the Rural Investment Fund? (Please rank these projects 1-13 with number 1 being the highest priority)

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 - 147 | Community capital improvement (infrastructure development) plans |
| 2 - 184 | Sewer/water project funding |
| 2 - 184 | Business loans/grants |
| 4 - 188 | Downtown revitalization |
| 5 - 202 | Grant writing assistance for community projects |
| 6 - 203 | Tourism/Community marketing plans |
| 7 - 217 | Job training/retraining |
| 8 - 223 | Housing development/rehabilitation finance |
| 9 - 224 | Business development technical assistance (Preparation of business plans, etc.) |
| 10 - 237 | School to work training/student internships |
| 11 - 245 | Natural resource planning/technical assistance |
| 12 - 264 | Community planning assistance (goals; assessment of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, etc.) |
| 13 - 273 | Land use planning assistance |

Other Considerations:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
12	9	Are there types of projects for which the Rural Investment Fund should not be used? If so, please identify: Those that easily qualify for funding under usual regional strategies categories - 2, Operating grants, Low income housing, USFS, Roads, Help cities or schools fund projects, Anything that would widen existing Oregon land use laws, Further personnel in additional governmental levels, Any project that has other funding sources and could proceed without RIF- 2, Support of gaming activities, Support of controversial projects such as abortion clinics, Projects that are already underway
9	11	Should there be a maximum award limit? If yes, what should the limit be? \$20,000 -1; \$50,000 -3; \$75-100,000 -1; 20% of amount available
20	10	Should the RIF be limited to projects in communities of a certain size? If yes, what size? 4-Under 5,000; 7-Under 10,000; 4-Under 15,000; 2-Under 20,000; 1-Under 3,000
22	6	Should the RIF be available to unincorporated areas?
25	4	Should the RIF be used for loans to private businesses?
22	7	Should the RIF be used for grants to private businesses?
17	12	Should the RIF be used for loans to local governments?
24	3	Should the RIF be used for grants to local governments?
17	6	Should the RIF support projects with a regional or multi-jurisdictional approach? If yes, what percentage should go to these types of projects? 25% -3; 20% -1; 15% -1; 3% -1; 25-50% -1
18	7	Should all projects be sponsored or endorsed by a local jurisdiction (city, county, district, etc.)?
9	19	Should local jurisdictions be limited to a maximum of one application per funding cycle?

Are there other issues the Regional Board should consider that are not included in this survey?

1. Look at cities with low to moderate income.
2. While leverage is important, ease this criteria for smaller communities that don't have cash match.
3. Give some priority to smaller communities that never get anything.
4. Don't require strategic plans.
5. A percentage of the money should be allocated to communities under 10,000.
6. Projects should receive greater consideration if they are endorsed by a local jurisdiction.
7. Allow for flexibility in community strategic plan priorities - priorities change over time.
8. Projects that involve active recruitment of companies to the region emphasizing some smaller communities should be considered.

Other issues - Continued

9. Projects that will affect the greatest number in a positive way.
10. Use funds to guarantee loans for small business.
11. One award per jurisdiction.
12. Try to spread money out without making grants too low.
13. Consider projects that combine the interests of natural resource based industries and the tourism industry.
14. Look for projects that will improve the quality of life in the region, not just projects with easily quantifiable economic benefits.
15. This fund should be available for many kinds of projects...don't narrow the criteria so much that good projects are ruled out.
16. Consider projects that are unique in nature and may not fit the idea of creating "jobs".
17. If tourism is to be a sustained part of the economic fabric of NE Oregon, it is necessary for the local artists to develop their skills to meet the demand for indigenous art. Art is part of the "tourism infrastructure" that works to attract both people and dollars to an area.
18. Keep in mind that information obtained by survey & public meetings reflect the opinions of those who attend or fill out survey - they may not reflect the real needs of the community.
19. Application should contain questions about the workforce needs for the projects or the workforce problem that will be addressed by the project.
20. If funding social programs, it is important to address the problem rather than the symptom, with homeless teens, the problem may be dysfunctional families and not homelessness. Be careful about funding symptoms that don't lead to a cure, it may perpetuate the problem.
21. Projects can be evaluated on their experience in providing the proposed service, the experience and knowledge of a board of directors, their business or organizational plan, their connections and collaborations with other organizations, their accomplishments to date, and the support offered by communities and other organizations. Projected economic impact can also be documented.
22. 50% of the money should be spent encouraging private enterprise via grants and loans. Improving private enterprise brings in more revenue to any area. Local residents should be encouraged to develop the businesses
23. Tap into tourism connected businesses - film & video, winter activities, clean industries.
24. Attract specific industry.
25. Fairgrounds should be utilized to full potential.
26. Any development projects should be concentrated in existing towns and not on agricultural land.
27. Salt Creek Summit area should be developed as a cross-country skiing destination.